

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 44, 45, 47, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60, 61, and 63 are pending in the application, with claims 44 and 45 being the independent claims. Claims 46, 48-53, 56, 59, and 62 have been cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter previously recited therein. Claim 47, which previously depended from claim 44, 45, or 46, has been amended to depend only from claim 44; the dependency from claim 45 has been moved to newly presented claim 63. No new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 44, 45, 54, 55, 57, 58, 60, and 61 have been allowed.

Claims 46, 50-52, 56, 59, and 62 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over pages 1-6 and 44 of Applicants' specification. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, and in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have herein cancelled the rejected claims, thereby mooting the rejection.

Claims 46-52, 56, 59, and 62 have been rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, and in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have herein cancelled all of the rejected claims except for claim 47, thereby mooting the rejection as to the cancelled claims. Claim 47 has been amended herein such that it no longer depends from rejected claim 46, and such that it only depends from allowed claim 44. Applicants submit that claim 47 satisfies the requirements of § 112, and withdrawal of the rejection under this section is requested.

Claim 63 depends from allowed claim 45, and Applicants submit that claim 63 is allowable for at least this reason.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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